

THY STRONG WORD

MARCH 2020

Mission Update

As I reread our February newsletter before starting this March newsletter, I was incredulous at how much our world has changed in the last month. How is it possible that a month ago we were traveling to San Juan, meeting up with friends arriving on a cruise, enjoying a visit from Anthony's mom, meeting for church and Bible studies, and excited about a new place to hold worship in Ponce?

Cruise ships are no longer allowed to dock in Puerto Rico, we are uncertain of whether Anthony's mom will be able to safely travel back in May for the birth of the baby, and we haven't left our house (except Anthony maybe 4 times) since March 15. The governor of PR has instated a curfew for everyone from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. (medical personnel excluded), and driving restrictions were recently added as well. If your license plate ends in an odd number, you may drive only on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday; if it ends with an even number, you may drive Monday, Wednesday, Friday.

Thankfully, in spite of these limitations, we are still able to share



the Gospel message through online worship, Bible studies, and devotions, and to an even larger audience at that! The three pastors here have been writing and posting devotions every day in the morning and evening. They have an online Bible study on Mark every Tuesday and Thursday evening, and they are continuing Wednesday evening and Sunday morning worship online. All of these things are done in Spanish, but if any of you is interested in watching them, go to the Iglesia Luterana Principe de Paz facebook

page found here: <https://www.facebook.com/ilpdp/>

We were able to squeeze in a FORO (semiannual meeting with supporters of the PR Mission) here in PR from March 13-15, however it did end early as people were trying to get home before any restrictions were in place that would prevent them from leaving. Anthony was unable to attend the FORO because he was feeling sick.



EATING ON OUR PORCH JUST FOR A LITTLE CHANGE.



ELIANA'S FIELD DAY AT SCHOOL PRIOR TO SCHOOL CLOSING.



OUR OWN LITTLE ELSA AND ANNA.

Personal update & Prayer Requests



I mentioned in my last newsletter that we spent much of February with at least one sick person in the house. Anthony started feeling poorly a few days after the half marathon in early March. He was finally restored to health on March 15 (first day fever free for 10 days). Ironically, once our whole family was FINALLY healthy, the world wasn't, and we started social distancing on March 16.

We know that all our readers are dealing with similar restrictions, fears, and the unknowns that COVID-19 brings. We keep it all in our daily prayers, and we trust that God continues to hold everything together in His powerful hands.

The girls' first day of "online learning" was March 16. Currently, they are hoping to go back on April 13, but we know that date will likely be extended.

In spite of all the challenges, we are thankful for the good weather, our house, our front yard, and all the resources we still have to be connected to one another even while we are "sheltering in place." We've gotten out the kiddie pool, rearranged furniture, done lots of crafts, played "hospital" (Eliana's new favorite pretend scenario), etc. We pray you all have found valuable and enjoyable ways to pass your days as well.

I mentioned that we switched doctors back in January. We are so thankful for making that decision because our new doctor comes to our house for appointments. Now I don't have to worry about going to a medical office and being in a waiting room with lots of people. The doctor will also deliver our baby at home along with the help of a nurse and a doula. Eliana has especially been enjoying my appointments and getting to "help" with the ultrasounds (bottom left picture). Baby Boy is weighing over 5 pounds now in the 77th percentile. We are thankful that everything looks healthy, and we pray it stays that way. If an emergency should arise, we will go to the hospital, but we continue to pray that it will be a safe and smooth delivery - only 6 weeks until my due date!

On another note, we recently found out that the Office of International Mission has postponed home service for all missionaries through June 30 (at least), so our June plans have changed. We are still hoping to come back in July, but we also know that it may be safer for us to stay here in Puerto Rico depending on how this pandemic situation plays out.

DONATION INFORMATION

Read our prayer card and give online at <https://www.lcms.org/diliberto>
A check can be made to the LCMS with "DiLiberto" in the memo line and sent to: LCMS, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166

Mission Central - Adopt Us as your missionaries by visiting

<https://missioncentral.us/diliberto/A>
check can be made out to Mission Central with "A10898-69173" in the memo and sent to: Mission Central, 40718 HWY E16, Mapleton, IA 51034

1. Thank God for our currently healthy family, including baby!

2. Pray for solutions and improvements in the pandemic situation.

3. Pray for God to provide the help we need when the baby is born.

4. Praise God for all the ways He is working during this unprecedented time.

5. Praise God that His grace is sufficient for us, and through Christ we can be content with hardships, persecutions, and calamities. 2 Cor. 12:9-10

PUERTO RICO FAST FACTS

COVID-19

When we started sheltering in place on March 16, there were 5 confirmed cases of COVID-19 on the island. As of April 2, there were 316 confirmed cases and 12 deaths. One of the deaths was a man from Mayaguez. The first two cases were an Italian who arrived on a cruise ship and an American tourist.

Since March 16, PR has been "sheltering in place" with a curfew and only essential businesses open with shorter hours. If restaurants are open, they are open only for carry-out or delivery. Schools have also been closed but are doing online learning.



CONTACT US - NEW ADDRESS!

Anthony & Jamie DiLiberto
1494 Camino Zoologico
Mayaguez, PR 00682
jendorf17@gmail.com

ANTHONY'S BLOG
NONORTHORSOUTH.COM

Hymn: How Firm a Foundation LSB 728, vs. 4

When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,
My grace, all sufficient, will be your supply.
The flames will not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.